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LIBRARY SUPPORT

\$156,000,000 Is Not Enough.....	<i>Stanley Frank</i>	91
Operation Library—Golden Opportunity.....	<i>Richard C. Allen</i>	96
The Hinckley Public Library Grows.....	<i>Mrs. Anna Burk</i>	98
Our First Library Region.....		99
The Ruth Sawyer Collection.....	<i>Mrs. June S. Smith</i>	102
Three International Libraries.....	<i>Vernie H. Wolfsberg</i>	103
Salmagundi		109

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\$156,000,000 Is Not Enough

STANLEY FRANK

*Reprinted, with condensation where noted, from The Elks Magazine,
October 1958*

Latest statistics show that in this country of unlimited educational opportunities, our local public libraries are struggling along with one third of the funds required for minimum standards of community service.

If you ever have wondered whether your community is making a reasonably good effort to cultivate its material and cultural resources, you can satisfy your curiosity with a half-minute test. Drop into your local public library and casually look around from the doorway. Assuming you are a typical adult, it probably will be your first visit since you had a research assignment for a term paper in high school. In that event you are due for a profound shock or surprise.

Is the library the same dreary mausoleum you remembered, with forbidding "Silence" signs and austere furniture that made the acquisition of knowledge a physical chore? It is an indication that most of the other public services available to your family are as outdated as the quill pen. Is the place jumping with unexpected activities—movies, records, visual displays? You can be assured you live in a progressive town, for nothing reflects the intellectual climate of a community more accurately than its libraries. They are indispensable adjuncts of the school system and are—or should be—the major sources of continuing education for adults.

In recent years the old, musty concept of a library has been swept away by refreshing gusts of new ideas, but few people are aware of them. The modern library is something more than a repository for books in faded brown and green bindings like so many tombstones to dead issues. It offers and exploits every medium of communications—words, pictures, music and scientific displays inspired by headlines in yesterday's newspapers. In Louisville, Kentucky, the central branch pipes recordings into schools from its own FM radio station and it shortly will transmit TV programs from a special studio in the building.

A library can be as lively as a supermarket on Friday night and its shelves can be as well stocked, with a wide variety of

attractive mental stimulants, if it is supported properly. Good libraries are like good roads, parks and police forces. Everyone is in favor of them, but few people are willing to face up to the hard fact that public services cost money.

Not Enough Money

A total of \$156,000,000 was spent on the nation's 12,000 public libraries for materials, salaries and maintenance in 1956, the last year for which statistics are available. Seems like a lot of money—but it was less than *one-third* the expenditure necessary to achieve *minimum* standards of service and materials. According to the American Library Association, a library system should have an annual appropriation of \$3 per capita in the area it serves to do a competent job. In other words, the United States should be spending half a billion dollars a year to provide adequate library facilities for its 170,000,000 people.

Only four cities in the country exceed the ALA's minimum requirements. Cleveland, with an expenditure of \$4.75 per capita, leads the list, followed by Boston with \$4.20 and Pasadena, Cal., and Springfield, Mass., around \$4. Only seven other cities measure up to the \$3 per capita figure—Peoria, Ill., Mt. Vernon, N. Y., Quincy, Mass., Newark, N. J., and California's Glendale, Long Beach and Santa Monica. Scores of important cities don't even spend one dollar a year per capita—notably Houston, Memphis, New Orleans, Little Rock, Scranton, Richmond and Kansas City, Kan.

We like to think of ourselves as the richest, most progressive country on the face of the earth, but 27,000,000 Americans have no access to free libraries. In five states—North and South Dakota, West Virginia, Mississippi and Idaho—more than half the resident population has no local public library service.

When confronted with such depressing statistics, harassed municipal and state authorities throw up their hands and cry that there simply isn't enough tax money to satisfy all the demands for public services,

and they are right, of course. It also is true, however, that libraries traditionally have been shunted into the background like poor relations, forced to take the scraps granted them by budget committees.

In 1953 the U. S. Census Bureau made a comparative survey of state appropriations for various functions. It found libraries were given an average per capita allotment of six cents, against \$28.22 for education, \$23.12 for highways, \$16.22 for public welfare, \$8.47 for health and hospitals, \$3.50 for natural resources, \$2.67 for public safety, \$2.62 for government establishments, \$1.20 for employee security and \$.37 for airports and water installations.

Library Is Good Business

Budget-makers should be aware that a library can bring more business into a town. As you probably know, it is standard operating procedure by major corporations looking for sites of new plants and office installations to assign industrial experts to investigate a number of factors in localities under consideration. These scouts study tax rates, pools of skilled labor, housing accommodations for employees, transportation facilities and, among other things, the caliber of a community's library. In this technological age, no manufacturing or selling organization can keep abreast of new scientific developments in its own and related fields without a convenient and complete source of the latest reference books.

Cleveland businessmen recognized that fact a generation ago and successfully fought a proposed cut in the library budget during the depression of the 1930s. The same principle was reaffirmed by the International Junior Chamber of Commerce at its world conference in Tokyo last fall, when Operation Library was adopted as one of the organization's major projects.

It is not sheer coincidence, for example, that the huge automotive industry is concentrated in Detroit. The city began to cultivate its meal-ticket long ago by amassing in the main branch of the public library extensive collections of printed materials pertaining to mechanical engineering and labor-management relations. Seattle hardly has the climate or the geographical location for an aircraft building center, but it has given the Boeing Company a strong inducement to remain by building up an excellent aero-

dynamics library. Similarly, Newark, New Jersey, caters to the needs of customers in the nation's most heavily industrialized area.

In Dallas, the main library has a permanent display featuring the latest creations of Parisian dress designers to stimulate the city's fast-growing industry. Elsewhere, however, Texas has missed the boat by failing to provide oil companies with the technical libraries they need. That is why Tulsa, Oklahoma, still is the administrative headquarters of the oil industry.

The situation in Texas mirrors the sweeping changes in attitudes and habits the last decade has brought to several sections of the country that were essentially agricultural in character. The booming oil industry has been accompanied by an influx of literate, sophisticated people whose intellectual tastes differ radically from the farmers and ranchers who comprise the bulk of the population. Fortunately, there are people who are aware of the state's serious cultural lag.

A remarkable confession was made by M. M. Harris, vocations editor of the San Antonio Express, in his testimony before the House Committee on Education and Labor on May 26, 1955. "It is an awfully embarrassing situation," Harris said, "when a man gets up and tries to deliver a Chamber of Commerce talk, and you know what that means, and he talks about Texas being first in cotton, first in cattle, first in oil, first in wool, first in mohair and so on, and then forty-seventh in per capita support of its library services."

Other Problems

Although skimpy budgets are the librarians' overriding headaches, that is only one aspect of the problem. The ALA freely admits that too many old-fashioned, fuddy-duddy librarians are more concerned with preserving a dignified silence for a few bookworms than they are with putting their facilities to the widest possible use. On the average, only fifteen per cent of the population are active members of their local libraries, and half of them are students.

"If more adults knew the cultural and recreational benefits their libraries could offer, they would demand financial support for such services," says Donald H. Clift, Executive Secretary of the ALA. "The trouble is that not enough librarians explore all

the angles for making their installations integral parts of the community."

A little imagination and initiative often can be provocative substitutes for money in merchandising ideas. Jerry Cushman, the librarian in Salina, Kan., increased his membership by holding open discussions of movies adapted from classics and recent best-sellers the night after the pictures were shown at a local theater. The enterprising staff in Rutland, Vt., whipped up a visual display that helped to clarify the mysteries of outer space last October, a few days after the Russians launched their first Sputnik.

Luring Readers

In Cincinnati, young people were lured back to the library with lectures on modern jazz, featuring recordings and live performances by visiting musicians. The Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore cut heavily into the ratings of big, noisy commercial TV shows by putting on a series of programs explaining the historical backgrounds of notable books, illustrated by art exhibits from the famous Walters Gallery. The main branch in Louisville operates on the sound premise that no stunt is too offbeat as long as it promotes the library as a public institution. It lends umbrellas on rainy days, just to get people through the doors and, perhaps, to browse through the books.

Actually, more people than ever before are using libraries—and for more serious purposes. The most significant statistic we found in this survey shows that non-fictional books borrowed from public libraries out-draw fiction by better than a three-to-one ratio through the country. Total circulation has increased 25 per cent since 1950, and books relating to the arts and sciences largely account for this healthy upswing. Twenty years ago, 175,000,000 fiction books were borrowed. Today, 100,000,000 pieces of fiction are taken out against 325,000,000 non-fiction books.

"Television is a substitute for light, escapist reading for millions of people," observes Mrs. Grace T. Stevenson, Deputy Executive Secretary of the ALA. "Then, the tremendous growth of paperback books and rental libraries also have been factors in the decline of fiction borrowed from public libraries. All things considered, though, it is safe to say that public libraries are drawing people

with more mature reading tastes than they did a generation ago

In effect, librarians are auxiliary teachers—without comparable advantages or prestige. If the truth must be known, librarians in large cities usually have more professional training than elementary school teachers. They are required to have five years of college work, including a Master's Degree, but their salaries are below the scale for teachers, their hours are longer and in many cases they do not have the pension or retirement programs provided for teachers. One objective of the ALA, which was founded in 1876, is to raise the professional status of librarians, but the closest the Association has come to affluence is its national headquarters at 5 East Huron Street in Chicago, once the mansion of Cyrus H. McCormick II, son of the inventor of the harvesting machine.

Russian Libraries

One result of our short-sighted, penny-pinching policy is that we seem to have lost the world leadership in the library field to Russia. There are approximately 25,000 public, school, university and special libraries in the United States. John Gunther, in "Inside Russia Today," cites the official government figures of 392,000 libraries in the Soviet Union (but, he points out, many are just a shelf or two in a school, factory or a collective farm). There is no question, however, that the Russians circulate far more free books than we. In 1956, they distributed 1,100,000,000 copies of 54,732 new titles, compared to 12,589 titles printed in the United States that year. It is significant, too, that 59 per cent of the books in Russian libraries are in the exact, natural and applied sciences.

The most "terrifying" aspect of Russia's vast network of book collections, according to Gunther, is that they are not true libraries in our sense. "They do not give free range to a researcher, scholar or simple reader because there is nothing in them except books that the government wants to be there."

Despite the shortcomings of the American library system, it still offers more people unrestricted sources of learning than any other country. In fact, the libraries established early in our national history were one of the first tangible evidences of democracy in ac-

tion. Although the old world had been maturing all branches of knowledge for many centuries before the United States was founded, our libraries quickly exemplified the deep-seated difference between the class distinctions that governed society in Europe and Asia and the American principle of equal opportunity for all people.

Libraries are as old as the records of man's achievements preserved through four millennia on stone, clay and papyrus. Egyptian aristocrats and priests began collecting such accounts in 2000 B.C., and the Babylonians and Assyrians also respected the past as a guide to the present. The greatest library of antiquity, founded by Ptolemy I, a Greek, at Alexandria in about 400 B.C., was a remarkable treasure house with 700,000 manuscripts. It is noteworthy that the long, bleak period known as the Dark Ages, dates from 391 A.D., when Theodosius destroyed the library at Alexandria.

For a thousand years, faint vestiges of education and culture were sustained chiefly by libraries supported by royalty and churchmen, but few literate commoners were permitted access to them.

America's Free Libraries

The snobbish notion that books were primarily for scholars was consigned to the rubbish heap with a good many other stuffy ideas in America. By 1850, less than seventy-five years after the young republic had gained its independence, it had 694 public libraries, more than all the countries of Europe combined. The first institution to lend books to all comers was founded at Salisbury, Conn., in 1810; but Peterborough, N. H., which approved a municipal tax for a book collection in 1833, holds the distinction of giving continuous support to a free library longer than any town in the United States.

The biggest impetus to the public library movement came from Andrew Carnegie, the Scotch immigrant who accumulated the greatest fortune of his era in the steel industry. Between 1881 and 1917, Carnegie donated \$41,000,000 for the construction of 1,681 library buildings in his adopted country. Other philanthropists made important contributions to libraries in the early 1900's, but the last forty years the trend among wealthy donors has been to concentrate their gifts on university libraries, which also need

all the financial support they can get. Besides, no public service should have to depend on private donations to fulfill a necessary function. In the final analysis, good public libraries are strictly the responsibility of state and municipal governments, and there is no question that citizens throughout the country have been apathetic in meeting this obligation.

Library Services Act

The urgency of the problem impelled Congress to pass the Library Services Act in June, 1956, authorizing the federal government to spend \$7,500,000 a year for the next five years for bookmobiles in rural areas with populations of less than 10,000. The bill posed a serious dilemma for many Congressmen who opposed, as a matter of sincere principle, federal subsidies for public welfare services that are properly state functions. After considering the 27,000,000 Americans deprived of free books, however, the most ardent champions of state's rights reversed their position on federal aid and voted for the bill.

A few days before the measure was submitted to the House of Representatives, President Eisenhower declared at Miami Beach: "The public library symbolizes educational opportunity in America, but the degree to which library services are supported by a local community is highly indicative of the aspirations of the citizens who live there. Increasingly, Americans are becoming aware that support for their public libraries falls far short of fulfilling these aspirations."

For the first fiscal year of the federal program, Congress appropriated only \$2,050,000 of the authorized \$7,500,000. The basic purpose of this "seed" money was to stimulate action on the local and state levels where the federal funds were spent—and it succeeded beyond the wildest expectations of people who fought for the bill. Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, North Dakota and Oklahoma voted emergency funds for state extension library service. Idaho, Arkansas, North Carolina and West Virginia gave their library agencies substantial budget increases—in the case of Idaho more than 150 per cent. Thirty-six states, required to put up \$1,282,861 to qualify for federal library grants, contributed \$4,224,120.

The money was appropriated to appease the great hunger for books aroused by 1,000

traveling libraries sent into the field under the government program. One bookmobile servicing Indians in an area of 30,000 square miles in New Mexico regularly was cleaned out of its entire stock of 1,000 volumes every day. Books placed in crossroads grocery stores were snapped up as fast as they were put on the shelves.

How People Respond

People who hesitantly took one book were so overwhelmed to discover there was no charge for the service that they borrowed as many as ten at a time—and swapped with neighbors until the bookmobile came around again two or three weeks later. The Richard B. Harrison bookmobile operating out of Raleigh, N. C., created such a demand among Negroes for courses in business, elementary law and home economics that Negro colleges in the vicinity inaugurated night classes for them.

With the possible exception of a park, no public facility confers as many benefits

on all age groups as a library. It introduces pre-school children to the world of ideas with readings by trained specialists, supplements the education of students, offers self-advancement to working adults and provides relaxation for housewives and retired people.

Well-defined trends that are shaping our society make the library more necessary than ever to more members of a community. The rising level of education is creating a demand for more and better reading. Deserving youngsters whose parents cannot afford to send them to college must be given an intellectual gymnasium for developing their talents in an era when the unskilled worker rapidly is becoming obsolete. Everyone mature enough to be reading this has seen the workweek reduced from six to five days, and now industrial engineers are predicting a 32-hour week. Your library can be a major factor in determining whether added leisure will bring you worth-while pleasure or empty boredom.

Added Centennial Books

A supplement to the Centennial Book List published in *Minnesota Libraries* June 1958.

Borchert, John. *Minnesota's changing geography*. Univ. of Minn. Pr. 3.00. A juvenile book emphasizing the development of Minnesota's industries and showing the state's relation to the rest of the world.

Gray, James. *Open wide the door; the story of the University of Minnesota*. Putnam. 4.50. An informal history, one of a national series on American universities. Shorter than the history Mr. Gray wrote in 1951 to celebrate the University's centennial, it brings the story up to date.

Heilbron, Bertha. *The thirty-second state; a pictorial history of Minnesota*. Minn. Hist. Soc. 8.95. The only comprehensive pictorial history of the state. The text is quite detailed and the illustrations—paintings, drawings, and photographs—have lengthy explanatory captions.

Kunz, Virginia. *Muskets to missiles; a military history of Minnesota*. Minn. Hist. Soc. 2.00. Starting with Zebulon Pike's expedition up the Mississippi and the building of Fort Snelling, the book goes on to recount the parts that Minnesotans have taken in the wars of their country.

Minnesota Centennial Literature Group. *Minnesota authors; a selected bio-bibliography*. Minn. Hist. Soc. 1.25. Compiled by a committee of librarians from Twin Cities libraries staffs, under the chairmanship of Raymond H. Shove of the University Library School. An alphabetical list of approximately seven hundred authors who were born in Minnesota or lived here several years, giving a brief biographical note and a list of published works for each.

O'Connor, William, ed. *A history of the arts in Minnesota*. Univ. of Minn. Pr. 3.00. Contents: Music and theater, by John K. Sherman; Books and authors, by Grace Lee Nute; Art and architecture, by Donald R. Torbert. Brief but interesting and comprehensive, welcome for its coverage of topics on which little material is available.

Torbert, Donald. *A century of Minnesota architecture*. Minneapolis Institute of Art. 2.00. A selection of photographs of interesting structures illustrating the history of architecture in Minnesota, with explanatory text.

Operation Library - Golden Opportunity

RICHARD C. ALLEN

Operation Library Chairman Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce

Since the adoption of Operation Library by the Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce, opportunity has knocked for both Jaycees and Librarians throughout the State. Operation Library, a program of assistance to local public libraries, was adopted by the Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce in February, 1958. It is a public relations program designed to emphasize the need of public library service and to encourage the public to use the facilities available, and a golden opportunity for both Jaycees and Librarians.

The young men who designed the government of the United States — many of them in their thirties—were a talented and influential group. These young American giants knew how to put men and ideas together. So it is with the Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce, some 5,500 young men under 35 years of age. Young men who are tremendously interested in their own communities. Young men who want better homes, better roads, better schools, better libraries and a better way of life. Furthermore, young men who are willing to work to accomplish these goals, and young men who are willing to devote long hours endeavoring to make their communities better places in which to live.

The Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce is comprised of some 105 local chapters. Although one hundred percent chapter participation in programs is rarely ever achieved, I feel certain that we could attain fifty percent of local participation if we received the whole-hearted support and backing of each librarian throughout the entire state. This would be a noteworthy accomplishment in this our first year of Operation Library activity. Librarians and Jaycees by working closely together have the opportunity of establishing a beneficial program that could be carried on from year to year.

Now Is the Time

Operation Library needs the guidance and help of all the librarians throughout the State of Minnesota. Jaycees are a busy group of people. In addition to their own professions and jobs, their own church activities,

schools, and parent-teacher associations, many of them belong to other service organizations. Over all, Jaycees are some of your communities' most active individuals. Furthermore, each local chapter has the opportunity to participate in a variety of projects and yearly undertakings such as; Agriculture and Conservation, Aviation, Civil Defense, Community Development, Community Health, International Affairs, Leadership Training, Miss Minnesota, Public Affairs, My True Security, Get to Vote, Sports and Recreation, Seasonal and Religious Activity, World Congress, Business and Industrial Development, Youth Welfare, plus many other projects on a national, state and local basis. Each Jaycee program has its own state chairman extending his best efforts to encourage the local chapters to endorse his program. Here is where I believe I have an advantage.

There are many communities in which Jaycees have shown a keen interest and have activated Operation Library programs. I would like to appeal to the librarians in these communities to keep in contact with their local Jaycee chapters so that this program will be a continued one. I would like to make a special appeal to librarians in communities where no Operation Library program exists. I would like to suggest that librarians in these communities contact their local Jaycees and let them know that you are interested in what they are planning to do with their Operation Library program. Jaycees have the manpower, energy, and willingness to conduct successful programs. That phone call or note from you, the librarian, may be just the spark we need to put these young men into action.

The Jaycees who believe that "Service to Humanity is the Best Work of Life," can truly emphasize this tenet of the Jaycee Creed through Operation Library. Jaycees must inspire others with the idea of service to humanity. Jaycees should look at the question of improving library facilities within the state of Minnesota from the viewpoint of producing more human beings who will have a strong desire to help humanity. Each Jaycee chapter should emphasize and

make their whole community think seriously about the function of a library and how important it is to uphold a public library.

The desire to help humanity is not enough; without the knowledge of what to do and how to do it, well meaning persons can do more harm than good. Here lies the opportunity for the Librarians. Librarians can furnish this needed guidance and know how and in cooperation with the Jaycees an intelligent, constructive, unified program can be established. Jaycees will become as impressed as this state chairman with the enthusiasm, energy, and vision of this outstanding group of people so devoted to their profession. Librarians are full of competitive spirit and can very well think of themselves as dispensers of culture rather than keepers of books. Librarians cannot be content to wait for an intellectual few to find them. They realize that in this day and age their

product needs good packaging if it is to meet the competition of movies, television, and radio. Once more opportunity knocks for the librarians to make contact with their local Jaycees and help them to develop a program with real potentialities.

In this day and age of Sputnik, as man ventures farther and farther into space, the search is on for new super-fuels to lift the bulky equipment of interplanetary travel outside the earth's orbit. But there is one tremendous source of energy we have always had in America. Bacon named it when he said, "Knowledge is power." Operation Library is designed to increase and encourage the use of that knowledge. In the year of Minnesota's double golden anniversary, the Jaycees as well as the Librarians of Minnesota, have this double golden opportunity—Operation Library. Take advantage of it. Together let's carry our banners high for library service in Minnesota.

National Library Week April 12-18, 1959

Dear Public Librarian:

You have the responsibility of forming a local National Library Week Committee! Librarians from all kinds of libraries should be involved in the National Library Week program but someone must take the important first step of getting others together in planning. It seems most practical for you—the public librarian—who serves all segments of the community, to assume this initial responsibility.

I suggest that you start now in the organization of the local committee by inviting representatives of libraries of all kinds in your community to meet. This may mean town, city or county, whatever constitutes your local community. Don't forget to invite the special librarian who may serve in a local industry or institution; school librarian, your local college or university librarian. I suggest that you invite some of your trustees to meet with you as well as a representative of the Friends of the Library, if you have one. Discuss with this group the overall objectives for which you want to use Library Week in your community. Draw up a list of choices for chairman of your local committee and the committee members. Remember to think of hitherto untapped sources of support for reading and libraries instead of relying only on the tried and true friends whom you already have. Aim high. No one wants a letterhead committee, but it is desirable and possible to enlist the interest of top leaders, especially those who have shown interest in other public service efforts, and then find ways to involve them in library matters. Prestige people on your Library Week Committee will draw others. Also, the busy executive often has the best resources in terms of clerical and secretarial help and contacts with other leaders.

On the state level the formation of a State Committee for National Library Week has been the responsibility of the Minnesota Library Association and the Minnesota State Library Division. Most fortunately, Elmer L. Andersen, former State Senator, and President of the H. B. Fuller Company, has accepted as chairman. He has invited committee members to serve and will be host at a planning meeting on January 21. This State Committee is responsible for the development and execution of the program on the state-wide level. They will do as much as possible to promote publicity and public relations for libraries and reading through communication media which cover the state. Local programs, activities and publicity are the responsibility of the local committees. If you need the assistance of the State Committee please write to me.

National Library Week is not an end in itself but a means of helping us to attain many objectives. To be most effective, it should be regarded not as a separate, isolated project, merely to be observed, but an integral part of all efforts—whether those of professional librarians or interested laymen—to strengthen support for libraries, to encourage their use, and to heighten the community's sense of the importance of reading to our national life.

Let's prepare now to make the most of it!

(Mrs.) Agatha L. Klein, Executive Director for National Library Week in Minnesota
St. Paul Public Library, St. Paul 2, Minnesota

The Hinckley Public Library Grows

MRS. ANNA BURK
Librarian, Hinckley Public Library

The "Woman's Study Club," organized "The Hinckley Public Library Association" in December 1934. There were 71 paid memberships at 50c each. They gathered books from individuals and bought a few new ones.

In March 1938 the village council voted to give a three mill tax and a librarian was hired by the W.P.A. The library was started in a small room in the public school with free light, rent, heat and water. A new addition was added to the school in 1941. It contained a beautiful new library with work room and all necessary equipment. The Public Library was moved into this new room with the High School Library. The two libraries remained together for about seven years. By that time the volumes in both libraries had increased greatly so the Public Library was forced to find different quarters. A room outside the school building was desired but the budget did not permit high rent, or heat and light. Finally it was decided to go back to the small room where the library started. Many books had to be boxed and stored as the quarters were extremely cramped.

When W.P.A. help was stopped, the village voted to raise the mill tax to 5 mills. With this amount we have been able to carry on with the help of many donations of books, magazines and memorials.

In the spring of 1957 the village council said a new village hall was to be constructed which would include an adequate room for the library. In May 1958 the books were moved to the new building. The room is on the ground floor and is a very light and airy one. It is a real pleasure to work in it after the small quarters we had so long. Several things need to be added as soon as we have available funds. Stacks need to be added soon, and additional hours would relieve congestion and pressure.

All through the years the circulation has been good. The location in the school accounted for the town and country children being able to have easy access to the library, but it limited adult use. Television caused a slump, for a while, but reading is taking its rightful place again, particularly where an attractive collection and reading place are

available.

The adult circulation has increased greatly as many people hesitated in coming to the school. The adult circulation now surpasses the juvenile circulation, and both circulations have doubled over any previous summer. We had no room for people to sit down before and now find young and old alike coming to relax and read. The Library is a beehive of activity, with patrons making constant use of reference resources.

We are very interested in the multi-county library plan with central library headquarters, a professional library administrator, and a bookmobile. In spite of the fact that our village council has approved and given 5 mills since September 1945 we have need of many more books. If the multi-county library goes through we would need to put our share into it. As this would provide books and a salary, Hinckley would have money left to build our own book stock. Besides we could have books placed in our library from the central library and our village and rural patrons could take books directly from the bookmobile every time it comes around. Films, records and additional magazines and pamphlets would also be available.

Many avid readers (both adult and children) keep up with all available material we can furnish and could read many times as much. Besides we have various kinds of readers with numerous interests, some wanting one type of material, and others different types. Men usually read only factual material, and there are many hundreds of subjects they might ask for which we cannot now supply. Fiction demand also covers a big range of subjects such as mystery, historical, western, adventure and romance. It is now impossible to supply our patrons with books on hobbies of their choice. Boys especially want books on airplanes, cars, rocks, and space travel. Science is much in their minds these days and it would be good to be able to give them more of the answers they want.

The Hinckley Public Library has served the public as well as it could for 24 years but feels with the multi-county library to help, the next 24 years can far excel the past.

Our First Library Region

Tuesday, October 14, 1958, is a date for the history books in Minnesota. Minnesota's first regional library system was created by an agreement signed by the Dakota County Commissioners, the Dakota County Library Board, and the Scott County Commissioners on that date. It creates the Dakota-Scott Regional Library. Members of the Regional Library Board, consisting of six members from Dakota County and three members from Scott County were appointed that same day.

The new Regional Library Board is composed of the following: Mrs. Philip J. Broderson, Jr., rural Dakota County, President; Mr. Cormac A. Suel, Shakopee, Vice-president; Mr. LeRoy Scheffler, Jordan, Secretary; Mrs. R. F. Nelson, Farmington, Treasurer; Mrs. D. L. Grannis, South St. Paul; Mrs. Birney Novotny, West St. Paul; Mr. B. J. Polga, Hastings; Mr. Myron Kehne, rural Dakota County; and Mrs. Axel Rasmussen, Elko.

The board met and organized immediately after its appointment, and began making plans. Earlier advertisements for a Director, run when it was first thought that Dakota County would be starting a single county library, had produced a number of good applications, and the announcement of the establishment of the regional library produced others. The Regional Library Board decided to offer the position of Director to Mr. Robert H. Rohlff, Minneapolis, currently President of the Minnesota Library Association, and he accepted effective on January 1, 1959. The Board is indeed fortunate in securing Mr. Rohlff and in being able to begin its establishment process so soon.

The Board also drew up its first tentative estimated budget, including the amount of Rural Library Aid which would be required to get the library and its services established. With a maximum potential income at two-mills for continuation amounting to over \$80,000 a year, their estimated establishment budget was figured at \$117,800. This includes nearly \$30,000 for books and about the same for equipment including two bookmobiles. With an estimated income of \$38,200 from the first year one-mill tax, they then applied for \$79,600 in aid. The State Board of Education made a grant to

them of this amount at its November meeting.

The Creative Agreement

Since the agreement which creates the regional library is the first ever negotiated in Minnesota, it required careful wording. Fortunately, the creative work done by the Kandiyohi County and Willmar Public Library Boards in merging their services provided excellent suggestions in the wording of some of the specific provisions. However, in order to make certain that all the proper laws had been cited, and that legal complications had been reduced to a minimum, the Agreement was submitted for review by the office of the Attorney General. The drafting committee is to be congratulated in drawing a document which appears to have solved all the legal problems involved.

Since other areas may wish to utilize the document as a model (see Salmagundi) and in order that people who are active in trying to arouse interest in regional library establishment in other areas may see a specific example, we are printing the agreement in its entirety.

AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Dakota County, Minnesota, and the Board of County Commissioners of Scott County, Minnesota, have each officially acted to establish public library service in their respective counties and provided for the financial support for such service from county tax funds; and

WHEREAS, it is the mutual desire to strengthen and improve public library service for both counties; and

WHEREAS, it appears advantageous to accomplish this in a practical and economical manner through the operation of the public library services in said counties jointly; and

WHEREAS, legal authority for the joint operation of such public library services is provided for in Minnesota Statutes Sections 134.09, 134.11, 134.12, 375.33 and 471.59

NOW THEREFORE, we the undersigned representing the duly appointed Library Board of Dakota County, Minnesota; the Board of County Commissioners of Dakota County, Minnesota; and the Board of County Commissioners of Scott County,

Minnesota, do hereby enter into the following Agreement with the full intent of establishing, strengthening and improving public library services in all the areas to which we are responsible;

I

PURPOSE:

1. It is the purpose of this Agreement to establish, strengthen and improve public library services in Dakota and Scott Counties by establishing a regional public library system, and combining its operations with such existing public libraries in the two counties as may wish to join.

THE JOINT LIBRARY BOARD:

1. This purpose shall be accomplished through a joint board. For the purposes of governing the joint library services there shall be created a library board to govern the library services as a single library system, to be known as the Dakota Scott Regional Library.

2. Said library board shall be constituted and appointed in the following manner: There shall be nine (9) members, six (6) of whom shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Dakota County, Minnesota, and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Scott County, Minnesota. The terms of office of these members is three years and each shall serve until his successor is appointed and qualifies. Of the members first appointed, two (2) from Dakota County and one (1) from Scott County shall hold office for three years, two (2) from Dakota County and (1) from Scott County shall hold office for two years, and two (2) from Dakota County and (1) from Scott County shall hold office for one year; and thereafter all for terms of three years. The present members of the Dakota County library board shall constitute the first five appointments from Dakota County.

3. Said joint library board shall have the powers and duties provided for county library boards as specified in Minnesota Statutes Section 375.33, and as one Board shall administer the library service as a single library system.

II

FINANCING AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS:

1. Upon organization of the joint library board, there shall be elected by and from

its members, a President, a Vice-president, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Upon his election said Treasurer shall do and perform all the duties necessarily incident to that office as specifically set forth hereinafter. Said Treasurer shall, before qualifying as such, furnish a surety bond in such sum and amount as may be fixed by the joint library board, and the costs of such bond shall be a proper charge against the library fund.

2. Said Treasurer shall keep due and strict accounting of all monies coming into his hands for the use of the said joint library board, and he shall keep due and strict accounting of all disbursements from said fund, which fund shall be known as the joint library fund and which shall be deposited in such bank or banks as may be determined from time to time by the Board. The Treasurer shall render to said Board monthly statements of account, copies of which shall also be filed with the County Auditors of the two said counties.

3. A general operating budget shall be made up yearly and maintained as a single budget. Said budget shall be arrived at by consultation between members of the joint library board, and shall be filed by the joint library board with the County Auditors of said counties. Of said budget, the respective amounts provided by each county shall be based on the proceeds of an identical mill rate assessed against the valuation subject to the county library levy (i.e. in the first year each county will provide the proceeds of a 1-mill levy, with future assessments to be determined annually within the limits fixed by statute).

4. When and as the funds to be credited to the library fund become available to the counties, then the said funds, on proper vouchers filed by the joint library board, shall be paid into the joint library fund administered by the Treasurer of the Library Board.

5. All operating expenses of the joint library board shall be proper charges against the operation and maintenance of said library, including, but not being limited to, all salaries and wages of personnel, cost of maintenance and repair of buildings, purchase and replacement of books and equipment and any other proper items of expense, and they shall be charged against and paid out of the Joint Library Fund.

6. Any and all disbursements from said Joint Library Fund shall be made on check-warrant which shall become a negotiable instrument when signed by the Treasurer and one other officer of the joint library board. All such disbursements shall be first approved by the joint library board, except that the payment of all wages and salaries of regularly retained personnel shall be paid semi-monthly after, in the first instance, the joint library board has duly adopted a resolution authorizing the same and fixing the amount of said salaries and wages.

7. Said joint library board shall annually determine a reasonable amount to be set up on the books of account of the library board, and kept in a separate fund, as depreciation for replacement of bookmobiles.

8. Any further rules and regulations concerning financing and disbursements of funds may be adopted by the joint library board by resolution, not inconsistent herewith.

III

PROVISION FOR TERMINATION:

1. This Agreement shall continue in force until rescinded by action of one of the parties, but the effective period hereof shall be for not less than three years from the date hereof. After three (3) years from the effective date of this Agreement, either party may terminate it under any of the following provisions:

a. By giving notice in writing to the other party at least six (6) months prior to the effective termination date.

b. By mutual agreement of the parties.

2. In the event of termination, each party shall retain title to any and all assets which it may have held at the time of the effective date of this agreement. All other assets, including books and other library materials, shall be divided among the parties on the basis of each county's respective proportion of the financial support provided by its respective library fund, if said parties continue to support and operate public library service. If either county should discontinue to support and operate public library service after termination of this agreement, its due share of the assets shall, if such termination takes place less than five (5) years from the effective date of this agreement, revert to the State Board of Education for use elsewhere.

IV

OTHER PROVISION:

1. Said joint library board, and its personnel hired to administer and operate the public library service herein provided for, shall be responsible to see that all areas shall receive their full and due share of attention and service, and that in all areas to which the joint board is responsible the services shall be encouraged to grow along with all the other services of the library system. And, further, it is the full intention of all concerned to involve the South St. Paul Public Library in the services of the system to the fullest extent possible, and to work for full cooperation and coordination of services with said library.

2. In matters relating to services in specific locations, when there is a division of opinion on the joint library board, the weight of decision shall rest with the representatives of the specific area involved.

V

APPROVAL AND EXECUTION:

1. This Agreement shall be executed by the President and Secretary on behalf of the Dakota County Library Board; and by the Chairman and County Auditor on behalf of the Dakota County Board of County Commissioners and by the Chairman and County Auditor on behalf of the Scott County Board of County Commissioners. And this Agreement shall not become effective until it shall have been presented to, and approved by, the Board of County Commissioners of Dakota County, Minnesota, and by the Board of County Commissioners of Scott County, Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed this the 14th day of October, 1958.

COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD, DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA by:

Mrs. Philip J. Broderson, Jr., President

Mrs. R. F. Nelson, Secretary

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA by:

H. B. Gackstetter, Chairman

N. G. Yanz, Auditor

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, SCOTT COUNTY, MINNESOTA by:

E. J. Wermerskirchen, Chairman

Howard Huth, Auditor

The Ruth Sawyer Collection

MRS. JUNE S. SMITH

Department of Library Science, The College of Saint Catherine

The College of Saint Catherine has just had a most gratifying experience which it would like to share with others. On April 16, 1958, the College dedicated the Ruth Sawyer Collection of rare and fine books in the field of children's literature.

Honoring a famous children's author and storyteller, the naming of the collection was first announced in August, 1957, as a birthday gift to Ruth Sawyer Durand. Among her other activities, Mrs. Durand had served as a visiting member of the College faculty in 1942, when she made a lasting impression with her outstanding course in storytelling. Throughout the years since, she has retained a close association with Saint Catherine's through letters, pictures and autographed copies of her own books and those of her son-in-law, Robert McCloskey.

The ceremony of dedication was held at a convocation of students, faculty members and guests. Sister Mary William, college president, made the formal dedication. Mrs. Durand responded with a short speech and two delightful stories. In her talk she remarked that material things meant little and that to her the dedication of the collection was a deeply satisfying award. She said that a book cannot be possessed by just one person; that a book is for everyone to read and enjoy. A luncheon in Mrs. Durand's honor followed the dedication, with a guest list of librarians, teachers and others interested in children's literature and storytelling.

In order to give more people in the Twin Cities area an opportunity to see the Ruth Sawyer Collection and to meet Mrs. Durand,

the next day the College gave a tea for 250 guests. Librarians, teachers and students from the colleges and universities, libraries, public and parochial schools of the area were invited to come hear "one more story" by Mrs. Durand. Again she enchanted the audience with her masterful storytelling.

Sister Marie Inez, librarian of the College, said, "It can be said that it was Ruth Sawyer Durand's inspiration that prompted the library to collect first editions and autographed copies of children's books and particularly works directly concerned with the art of storytelling." To confer a well-deserved honor on one of Saint Catherine's most distinguished friends was a moving experience for the entire College.

The collection consists of two major parts. One covers the art and history of storytelling, including the folk literature of the world. The other is composed of the history of children's literature and the illustration of children's books.

A special bookplate for the collection was designed by Robert McCloskey. In a letter from Mrs. Durand's daughter, Peggy McCloskey, Mrs. McCloskey explains that her artist husband decided to do Jane (the McCloskeys' daughter) for the bookplate as she was just about Lucinda's age (the heroine of Ruth Sawyer's *Roller Skates*) and the dress is the kind Lucinda might have worn. The bookplate was also used on the cover of the dedication program.

Copies of the program may be obtained by writing to The Library, The College of Saint Catherine, St. Paul 5, Minnesota.

Three International Libraries

VERNIE H. WOLFSBERG

Research Assistant, World Affairs Center, University of Minnesota

"Every library should try to be complete on something, if it were only the history of pinheads." This was written by Oliver Wendell Holmes in *The Poet at the Breakfast Table* eighty-six years ago. Were Mr. Holmes alive today, surely he would give more than approbation to such libraries as those of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. These were the libraries which I surveyed in Europe last summer, and it was the latter which provided most of the material for the research necessary to complete my work at the University of Geneva. The balance was procured at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. "Completeness" is their watchword.

Of the three, only the Library of the United Nations in Geneva — a John D. Rockefeller Foundation library—is open to the general public. The UNESCO Library, though established to serve only the needs of this organization which is concerned with the whole intellectual endeavor of mankind, does permit specialists upon occasion to use its materials. The Library of the World Health Organization is also, primarily, an organization library. It is, however, open to such readers as the medically qualified—doctors, nurses, scientists, chemists, biologists and pharmacists.

UNESCO

As the UNESCO Library is necessarily limited by space and finances, its resources consist only of such material (books, periodicals, government documents, maps and microfilm) as has a direct bearing on the Organization's programs. Concentration is on works in the official languages of English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic, except materials of general reference such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, almanacs and the like.

The staff is composed of eleven persons, five of them professional. The professional staff is equipped not only to consult on acquisitions and direct the processing of all material, but to provide a central information service to answer all questions received

from UNESCO committees and staff members which relate to UNESCO programs. Compilations of lists of bibliographical reference and some other documentation is also the responsibility of the professional staff, as is a knowledge of the resources of other libraries and depositories. Books which are not of enough value to the work of the Agency to find a permanent place among its 30,000 volumes are borrowed in Paris, or from other national libraries such as those in Great Britain and the United States.

Acquisition is an extremely important service in the UNESCO Library. Here is the central acquisition section for all material required or requested for the various departments of the Agency: Its seminar libraries; its various science cooperation offices; its technical assistance missions, and various other sections; whether these are located at UNESCO House in Paris or in the remote areas of the world. To this end the library staff in Paris maintains contacts with booksellers in most countries, but usually deals with one international bookseller because of difficulties attendant upon the various rates of money exchange.

The Library is also well equipped with bibliographical resources, to verify references to, and requests for, material, as well as to make an estimate of prices. Such verification is especially important for requests coming from field offices. The field expert has no available source for clarifying his request. Also records in the Library must be checked to ascertain the funds currently available for the mission concerned. In addition to the usual procedures of making out orders for the material, checking with missions on its receipt and authorizing payment of invoice, customs formalities may cause some complications.

Disposal of exchanges at the UNESCO Library is classified as an acquisition service, since the Library buys from the Organization practically everything it sends out on an exchange agreement. Gifts also pass through the Acquisition section, though more often than not they are immediately routed to other centers of activity in

UNESCO House for current or permanent use. Many are passed on to other libraries.

The UNESCO Library uses the Universal Decimal Classification system, as do most of the agencies of the United Nations. Besides having flexibility and adaptability, it lends itself well to sub-division by language and country, which is most important to a library of international scope. More often than not the client will ask, not for all the material in the library available on a certain subject, but for all the material in the library on Iran, France, or one of the other countries.

Thus one major departure in cataloging is the arrangement of the catalog itself. A classified catalog and an author catalog are used instead of a combined dictionary catalog. This is the closest possible approach to a bilingual catalog and it also provides a neutrality in respect to language, which is often a problem when serving an international clientele. In the classified section of the catalog, the cards are filed numerically by Universal Decimal Classification and the searcher must first consult a supplementary index of class numbers. In the supplementary index, cards bearing arbitrary subject headings and familiar phrases common to the "special nomenclature and jargon of international organizations" are filed alphabetically. They bear the UDC numbers under which the searcher must look for the required material in the classified catalog. Duplicate indices have been prepared in English and French, the two working languages of UNESCO.

The work of cataloging has been minimized as much as possible. Whenever available, Library of Congress cards are used. Due to the universality of the Library of Congress, many titles are available in French and Spanish. As the UNESCO Library has need of at least six cards for each book, where Library of Congress cards cannot be procured it produces its own by a duplication process. This is done by preparing a typewritten translucent catalog entry from which copies are made on Ozalid board.

Periodicals are routed for two very good reasons: the lack of a periodical room and to ensure that all those who should be informed on specific subjects are reached promptly. The latter mandate is carried out in the UNESCO library by the use of Sys-

tems *Synoptic*, also known by the trade name of *Synoptic International*. It is a visible card-index system. All items of provenance are recorded giving title of periodical, subjects, languages, country of origin, name of publisher, and the UDC number. Periodicals are classified because of language requirements.

It is impossible to give full details of the *Synoptic* system here. Briefly, it is a system of colored signals and suspension filing. A sheath of rigid transparent plastic over the top of the card holds the colored signals firmly, and the sheath is inclined at a 45 degree angle, carrying the card with it. Thus all entries can be easily read and colored signals immediately spotted. On UNESCO cards colored signals are provided for one main subject, two secondary subjects, languages and country of publication, making a quick visual selection possible. Further information regarding this system may be procured from Monsieur B. Lampel, 150 Champs-Élysées, Paris 8, France.

The current subscription list to periodicals numbers 3,000. As has been said, they are classified for temporary storage. For permanent storage, they are not bound, but microfilmed, except in certain categories such as reviews.

Publications of international organizations in which UNESCO may have an interest are housed as special collections. They include such valuable publications as those of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, certain series of the League of Nations, bibliographies of the United Nations and recent sets of bound UNESCO publications. Older UNESCO releases are to be found in the archives, which is a separate administrative division. Also, the UNESCO Library has been designated as one of the two official depositories in France of the *Cumulative Catalog of Library of Congress Printed Cards* and the standards of the British Standards Institution.

Due to the small professional staff, bibliographical service must be kept at a minimum. Some bibliographies, however, are compiled; two of them regularly. One, a classified list of accessions, is distributed monthly; the other, a classified check list of current periodicals, biennially. Also some assistance is rendered to others who have been given a bibliographical assignment.

Still other bibliographies, which are to be included in UNESCO publications, are checked in the library. Advice is always available as to the form for bibliographical references, standardized abbreviations and the like.

Representation from the Library on UNESCO committees effectively strengthens the policies adopted and contributes to the formation of others. The Library is represented on an inter-departmental bibliographical committee which aims to establish standards based on those of the International Standards Organization. The librarian also has the assistance of an advisory committee with representation, mainly, of program interests. This committee also coordinates the acquisition of all publications.

The Library of UNESCO, from the point of view of operation, is "special" in every sense of the word, for adaptations of library procedures have been made to expedite service and compromise with lack of space, short staff and specified budget. Loans of library material are made for varying periods of time, depending upon the nature of the book and the length of time for which it is actually needed. Many duplicate reference books are charged out for a long period of time, or for permanent loan. Such volumes include, most often, directories and dictionaries of which the library has a growing collection, along with almanacs, yearbooks, atlases and encyclopedias. This is especially true of dictionaries "to and from" all the official languages. Books urgently requested by specialists are loaned before cataloging. This procedure serves two purposes; that of putting the book in the hands of the reader as soon as possible, and of eliminating waste of time and catalog cards. If the book is not worth keeping after it has served its initial purpose, the catalog cards need not be made.

Mrs. Tabiana Beliaeva from Russia is the chief librarian and Miss Milisa Coops of the Netherlands is the assistant librarian. Both speak several languages including English and French. During the year 1957 they, and their staff, handled 18,903 enquiries. Of these, 13,179 were made in person, and 5,724 by telephone. Periodicals received numbered 42,532 issues, and two-thirds of them were circulated. Over 6,600 orders were placed for new materials, approximately one-fourth for the library and the

balance for technical assistance missions and other departments.

Administratively, the Library falls within the Department of Cultural Activities. This is also true of the Libraries Division (the Division of Libraries, Bibliography and Documentation). The distinction between the work of the Library and the Libraries Division is best described by the words "service" and "program." The Library is the "service" agency which meets the needs of the whole Organization, while the Libraries Division is concerned with the "program" activities. And there are very specialized documentation centers in addition to the Library at UNESCO. The Department of Education has a large one, for which a special system of classification has been devised.

WHO

Though the World Health Organization Library serves only a select clientele, it does offer a great service to all medical workers throughout the world through the publication of its bibliographies in the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*.

Documentation service is of paramount importance at the World Health Organization. Its technical sections have the special responsibility of serving international meetings of experts. They must also keep the staffs of regional offices, as well as field teams, up to date on the latest developments in technical knowledge and procedures. Although there are an exceptional number of them, bibliographical tools available to the literature of medicine and allied subjects often are released from the publisher at a date too late to meet the Library's responsibilities. Thus library staff members must regularly scrutinize the contents of over 1,000 current periodicals and note for indexing those articles of possible interest to the technical experts. Articles selected number about 1,000 each month, even though indexing is selective in the extreme. Emphasis is on public health.

The actual work of indexing is minimized as much as possible. The bibliographical reference and subject headings (the latter based on those in use in the *Current List of Medical Literature*) are typed on a transparent master-slip. From this slip photocopied cards are produced and distributed weekly. They are sent to members of the

technical staff at Headquarters and to the regional offices. An alphabetical subject file of these cards is also maintained in the library. To keep its size within limits, the file is restricted to the five latest years. It is assumed that reference to the information in articles of previous years will, by that time, be found in the usual printed sources.

To supplement this service another is added, that of photocopying and microfilming the literature indexed. Through this system WHO technicians in remote corners of the world can be supplied with the material they require almost as quickly as the Headquarters staff in Geneva.

Another indexing service is put to even wider use. It serves not only the staff of WHO, wherever located, but the medical and health departments and institutions of WHO member states, and the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. This is the alphabetical geographical indexing of articles and books; for WHO is greatly concerned with the geography of disease. The guide which has been established for this service refers the user to the material available on health, medical, and to some extent, social conditions for a given area or country. This index is maintained in its entirety, since little topographical indexing exists elsewhere.

This extensive indexing of current literature does not mean that the staff of the World Health Organization is not interested in retrospective research. It is, and to facilitate prompt and efficient service, the library has assembled a comprehensive international collection of medico-bibliographical tools: indexing and abstracting periodicals, medical library catalogs, national bibliographies, publishers' catalogs, handlists, union lists of periodicals and the like. This makes its easier to comprehend how the World Health Organization has been able to build in ten years the record of accomplishment that it can so justly claim.

Certainly the WHO Library is well equipped to meet its daily load of enquiries, varied and often complex, running the gamut from identification of references to the compilation of comprehensive bibliographical surveys on given subjects. Of special interest to librarians is the fact that the only bibliography on punched cards in the

library is the *Abstract Archive on Alcohol Literature*.

An average of more than a hundred more or less major bibliographies, as well as reference lists, are compiled annually, in addition to some which prove to be of only ephemeral value. Those on subjects not adequately covered elsewhere are the ones considered for publication in the Bibliographical Section of the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. On these bibliographies the professional library staff works closely with the technical sections of WHO. Members of the library staff prepare a comprehensive list of references, leaving selection of those of value to the technical expert.

Though the WHO documents are not widely distributed, it also has been incumbent upon the Library to assume preservation and bibliographical control of both mimeographed and printed publications of the Organization. A very detailed analytical index as to author and contents is made and kept. In 1956 over 1,500 documents were indexed and cards produced by the same method used for the indexing of periodical literature. The index to the mimeographed documents is combined with that of the printed publications.

Publications for which the WHO Library is responsible are the *WHO Library News*, and supplements of a medico-bibliographical character, to assist the technical staff of WHO in their use of the library's resources. These publications carry such information as current acquisitions, lists of the periodical holdings of the library, lists of the World Health Organization's publications and of governmental reports on public health and medical subjects. Another vital list covers the holdings of the three international libraries in Geneva: WHO, the International Labor Organization and the United Nations. Still another is devoted to the current indexing and abstracting periodicals in the medical and biological sciences.

The WHO Library has 40,000 volumes on its shelves, a vast collection of pamphlets and mimeographed documents, and it receives 3,000 issues of various magazines monthly. There are medical volumes with emphasis on public health, some on surgery, others on hygiene and sanitary engineering. The WHO collection of pharmacopeias is the best in its area.

For classification of books, the Barnard system is used. It is one which was especially devised for medical collections with emphasis on public health. Dr. Barnard is director of the London School of Hygiene. Subject headings follow those of the National Library of Medicine in the United States, and in some instances those of the Library of Congress. The arrangement of the catalog is by author, subject and geographical designation; the latter to serve the interest of WHO in the geography of disease. Copies of catalog cards are sent to all regional offices, reproduced as are those for the documentation services.

The routing of periodicals is very efficiently expedited in the WHO Library. All librarians with such responsibility wherever located, must yearn to initiate one procedure which is well established at this international library. Every doctor or technician on the routing lists must return periodicals to the library for rerouting; he is not permitted to pass them on to the colleague whose name appears below his on any routing slip. Thus the staff in charge of this operation can proudly affirm that it seldom loses a periodical. Routing slips are simple, and entries pertinent to such a periodical record are made on cards approximating those of the Kardex system. If but six names appear on the routing slip, each technician may keep the periodical for one week; if there are seven or more names on the slip, three days is the limit for reading. The staff in the routing office also keeps current a register of what periodicals the various doctors wish routed to them. Mrs. B. Ruff is in charge of this extensive service.

Acquisitions are also part of the Library's centralized services. Materials are ordered and remittance made for all WHO offices except Washington, D. C. These include Alexandria, Brazzaville, Copenhagen, New Delhi and Manila, as well as the Headquarters in Geneva.

The staff of the Library numbers nineteen, ten of whom are professional librarians, with proficiency in several languages. Thus the greatest number of the most important languages of medical publications are adequately covered. And though the members of the staff have been recruited to serve a very special clientele concerned with immediate and vital problems, the results

of their endeavors may one day be prepared for wider application. This is especially true of the Library's extensive documentation activities. Mr. H. S. Izant, the librarian, wrote just last year, "In all WHO Library activities increased efforts are being made to use the resources of the library for the compilation of medico-bibliographical tools of international value."

United Nations

This library serves as a central library for the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, as well as for delegations, experts and journalists (as also does the Headquarters Library in New York). The United Nations Library at Geneva was founded in 1919 at London as the League of Nations Library and moved to Geneva in 1920 with the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

The year 1927 marked its expansion from the supplying of official needs "to serve as a center of international research and an instrument of international understanding." Thus its commemorative tablet phrases the objective which was made possible by a two million dollar grant, for building and endowment, from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The building, however, did not become a reality until 1936 when the *Palais des Nations*, the new home of the League of Nations, was completed. In this structure the Library was incorporated as a separate unit with its own entrance. Since 1927 many organizations, specialists, professors and students have come to avail themselves of the resources which this generous gift made possible.

In 1946 it was taken over by the United Nations to be maintained by the new world organization, and adapted to its needs. Three years later regulations were drawn up for the use of the Library: Those regulations provide for a liberal loan policy and collaboration with the libraries of the Specialized Agencies and United Nations Information Center in Geneva. The relationship between the Headquarters Library in New York and the Geneva Library also was defined at that time. Close cooperation was established which includes mutual assistance in regard to bibliographies and acquisitions, and exchange of information on purchases. Many acquisitions result from gifts by member nations, and others, as well as from exchanges. Cooperation is furthered by a Li-

brary Co-ordinating Committee of the United Nations Organization.

The unique feature of the Acquisition Department in the Geneva Library is the assignment of consultation with other United Nations libraries to eliminate duplication. It has the responsibility of supplying documentation, not only for the use of the United Nations, but for its Specialized Agencies in Geneva, the International Labor Organization and the World Health Organization. To the latter, the Library makes long-term loans of documentation collected over a period of twenty years.

The Library maintains a collection of approximately 500,000 volumes, the largest social science collection in the European region. "Social science" is used here in its broadest sense to include works on international, constitutional and administrative law, the legal codes of various countries, law texts from every country in the world, statistical publications, general reference material (encyclopedias, dictionaries, year books and the like) and publications covering economic, financial and social matters. In addition, space is allocated to complete sets of United Nations and League of Nations documents, as complete as possible a collection of documents of the Specialized Agencies, and a great number of maps and geographical publications. Completing the collection are more than twenty thousand laboratory reports and micro-cards representing the contribution of the United States to scientific literature on atomic energy. These with additional reports from France, the United Kingdom and Canada comprise an exceptionally comprehensive and growing collection in this field. The collections of governmental publications have a special value as they are held in their entirety by no other library outside their country of origin.

Since the Geneva Library is the headquarters of the International Federation of Library Associations, it is also able to supply readers with much unpublished reference material concerning bibliographies and librarianship.

Here also is the first museum of international history, with interesting material and fine photographs attractively displayed in a large, pleasant room. The collection consists of State papers, portraits, manuscripts and

autograph letters of many of the world's outstanding men and women known to have been dedicated to the growth of international organization.

Books and official documents are classified according to the Universal Decimal Classification with Cutter author designations. Library of Congress subject headings are used. Author, title and subject headings are arranged alphabetically to form the usual dictionary catalog. An alphabetical grouping is used for periodicals other than those falling under the classification of "official documents." It is the shelf list which deviates from usual procedures: It carries all pertinent information in French for French-speaking readers. The dictionary catalog, in English, serves the readers of that language. Further, each reading room for special subjects contains a shelf list of its holdings and a catalog of pertinent articles from the periodicals.

Language, however, is no problem for the searcher at the United Nations Library at Geneva. The library staff of 23, representing 10 countries, among them speak 14 languages.

The Library has a very flexible policy for those who come to read, study and do research. Each year over 800 cards are issued to new readers, exclusive of the UN and Specialized Agency delegates who need no special permit to use the Library. Research workers who wish to consult the large sets of publications may be given permission to study in the stacks. Also, separate photostatic copies of individual pages often are made available to readers and there is a microfilm installation. Additional facilities are made available to the Secretariat. Though the Library closes at 6:15 p.m., readers are often permitted to remain until 10 p.m., and even later. Smoking is allowed in the comfortable periodicals reading room to attract readers in leisure hours.

Routing of periodicals follows a simple procedure at the Geneva Library. A Kardex system is used for routing to certain members of the Secretariat who reroute them through their departments. The volume is great, 70,000 issues of many of the over 6,000 titles received yearly are routed.

Currently the Library is responsible for two monthly publications: *Monthly List of Selected Articles* and *Monthly List of Books*

Cataloged in the Library of the United Nations. The former is a list of articles culled from approximately 2,000 periodicals which are scanned in the Library as they are received. It is from this list that the article catalogs are prepared for the reading room.

A thin paper edition of these publications is also available. Thus institutions all over the world may cut out individual titles and paste them on cards to produce a catalog on any subject.

Between the years of 1930 and 1940 the Library published the *Chronology of International Treaties and Legislative Measures*. It had to be discontinued during the war, but publication of this unique bibliography is again being considered. The Library also publishes a great number of bibliographical monographs. Their titles are mentioned on the cover of the *Monthly List of Selected Articles*.

Librarians will agree that the building was exceptionally well planned when they read that the United Nations Library in Geneva has no problem of space. The book stacks include ten stories which can accommodate a million books. In 1957 the stacks were but half full. This, however, is not the only interesting feature about this fine

building. Provision was made for four reading rooms where more than 140 readers can be accommodated. The two on the first floor include one for the periodicals, where the bibliography collection is also to be found. The other is the social questions reading room. The two reading rooms on the third floor serve those who are interested in politics, legal and economic studies, and the economic archives.

Mr. A. C. Breycha-Vauthier of Austria is the librarian, and has been since 1928. He is also the assistant secretary of the International Federation of Library Associations. The deputy librarian, Mr. Norman Field, is from the Bodleian Library of Oxford. The president of the Library Committee is an American, Mr. William Warner Bishop.

Students in Geneva who are working for their library degree are fortunate. There is a close connection between the United Nations Library at Geneva and the Library School in Geneva. The students are accepted, without pay, for training in the methods of a great international library. The library, in turn, benefits from their useful services.

What opportunities there are for the librarian of today? Oh, to be a 1959 graduate from the library school!

SALMAGUNDI

COUNTY ELECTIONS

At the November 4th, General Election, seven counties voted on the question, "Shall the County Board of County, Minnesota, establish a public library for the free use of all the residents of said county?"

Three of these counties had a majority of affirmative votes, and are now in the process of forming library systems, appointing library boards, and applying for aid.

Following are the results of the election:

	Yes	No	Carried by	Population
POLK	6,459	4,443	2,016	35,900
PINE	2,728	2,620	108	18,223
MILLE LACS	3,222	1,734	1,488	15,165
			Total	69,288

	Defeated by			
WILKIN	1,311	1,517	206	10,567
COTTON				
WOOD	2,605	2,864	259	15,763
JACKSON	1,259	4,114	2,855	16,306
DOUGLAS	1,930	5,044	3,114	21,304
			Total	63,940

The three counties which voted to establish library service have a larger population than the four counties which vetoed the library question. Of the nearly 70,000 people living in the three counties where county-wide service will soon become a reality, 53,201 previously had no library service at all.

Chairmen of the county library campaign committees were:

Cottonwood—Mrs. Evelyn Malone, Win-
dom

Douglas—Mrs. E. E. Emerson, Osakis

Jackson—Mr. Harvey Holtan, Lakefield

Mille Lacs—Mrs. Florence Wahl, Milaca

Pine—Mrs. Helen Pechacek, Brook Park

Polk—Mrs. Cleo Thompson, Crookston

Wilkin—Mrs. Marguerite Schneider, Breck-
enridge, succeeded by Mrs. Henry Stueh-
renberg, Kent

These leaders were assisted by active com-
mittee members and many diligent workers
who gave innumerable hours of their time
toward getting out the library vote.

Analyzing the Votes

The Library Division staff is studying
these results trying to extract as many lessons
from them as we can. We already have a
great many suggestions to make to county
library campaign committees in the future.

The big question always is: Why did li-
brary establishment carry in some counties
and not in others? We have not found any
clear-cut answers, but we have found indica-
tions. One of the major problems every-
where was the prevailing atmosphere of
general opposition to tax increases, and in
all counties it was made clear that the li-
brary would cost money.

Another factor was in public information.
Several of the counties where the library
was defeated had had fairly extensive pub-
licity. But in the successful counties, both
publicity and person-to-person campaigning
was especially strong in the last few weeks
before the election, as in Pine and Polk. In
Mille Lacs, the public information was so
wide-spread and so effective that every pre-
cinct in the county carried, except for Bogus
Brook where the library lost by 10 votes.
Organized opposition which arose in Dou-
glas and Jackson Counties was an important
factor as was evident in the fact that they
were the only ones where the library issue
was badly defeated.

What appears to be the most important
factor is a hard one to pin down. There
seems to be a definite relationship between
the popularity of the library idea and the
general attitude toward education in the
rural areas of the counties involved. Another
extremely important factor was the support
of the existing libraries. Where all or most
of the libraries were strongly behind the
movement from the beginning, the library

question got a better vote. Where the existing
libraries opposed the county movement,
were lackadaisical, or began their support
too late in the campaign, the issue lost. The
exception to this was in Cottonwood County
where almost all the support for the county
library movement came from the existing
libraries and the communities they serve.

It is particularly disappointing to the peo-
ple in Cottonwood and Wilkin Counties
that they lost, when just a few more favor-
able votes in each precinct would have car-
ried the county. However, all the people
who worked so hard in the campaign de-
serve thanks. Those who lost have our deep
regrets as well and can be consoled with the
idea that at some future date the voters will
decide to fulfill their dream. Those who
won are to be congratulated on the progress
and opportunity that this vote opens up for
them and their fellow citizens.

Progress Report

The election results described above, com-
bined with earlier action by three county
boards, greatly enlarges the number of peo-
ple in Minnesota served by libraries. The
Dakota-Scott Regional Library establish-
ment is described elsewhere in this issue.
Mille Lacs and Pine Counties will combine
with Isanti County in the East Central Re-
gional Library. The contract has been
drafted, with terms agreed upon, for signa-
ture by all three counties on January 6, 1959.
They appoint their library board members
at that time and it will hold its organiza-
tional meeting that same week so that an
application for aid can be submitted for
State Board of Education action in Februa-
ry. This gives two regional libraries, defi-
nitely established.

In the Northwest where the Marshall
County commissioners had voted earlier to
establish library service if they could secure
the cooperation of at least one other county,
the Polk County commissioners have taken
under consideration the question of joining
with them. This question of a third regional
library establishment was still under negotia-
tion at the time of writing.

Midwest Meeting

Miss Mayne and Miss Hebrink, as well as
Mr. Smith, attended the meeting of the
midwestern state library agencies on the Li-
brary Services Act held at Madison, Novem-

ber 11 and 12. Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri were also represented at the conference. Everyone shared in an excellent exchange of information and experience regarding the progress and problems of library development. It was reassuring to the Minnesota delegation that our state is now moving toward the front in library development progress.

If all these developments take place as projected, 1959 will see over 80,000 Minnesotans receiving public library service who have never had it before; and these same developments will offer more adequate service to another 50,000 people who are now counted as inadequately served.

REGIONAL PLANNING

Citizen groups are already at work in several counties informing people of possibilities for regional libraries through the aid program in 1959.

The Becker County committee includes Chairman Ronald Henderson, Osage; and George Scherzer, Calloway; Mrs. Rodney Lindstrom and Mrs. Ed Strubble, Lake Park; Mrs. Leonard Kangas, Wolf Lake; Mrs. Victor Anderson and Mrs. Elmer Gibbons, Frazee; Rev. Roger Brandt, Ponsford; Mrs. Chester Holm, Audubon; Mrs. Art Groth, Ogemah; Mrs. Duane Erickson, Cormorant; and Mrs. J. A. Sealander, Detroit Lakes.

A meeting was held at Grove City, December 8th at which Mrs. Darrel Ketcham of Grove City was named acting chairman of a committee to explore the possibility of a regional library to serve Meeker County. Other members are Harriette Anderson, Litchfield; Mrs. Les Thalberg, Dassel; Father Duquesne, Manannah; Rev. Delton Krueger, Cosmos; Mrs. John Rubis, Grove City; Mrs. Niles Johnson, Litchfield; Mrs. Stanley Holmquist, Grove City.

Plans have been made to hold a regional informational meeting at St. Cloud, January 22nd. Benton, Sherburne and Morrison Counties will send representatives.

Willis Lilliequist was elected chairman of a Kittson County library development group at a meeting held at Karlstad in November. Mr. Lilliequist is the mayor of Kennedy.

Swift County people named Curtis

Mogck, superintendent of the Benson Public Schools, as temporary chairman of a rural library exploratory group, at a meeting held at Benson, December 9th. A second meeting will be held at Benson High School on Monday, January 19th. Interested citizens of Swift and Pope Counties will attend.

A regional meeting involving residents of Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle and Swift Counties is being planned at Montevideo on February 2nd. This informational meeting will begin stimulating the West Central Minnesota area toward regional library development.

PERSONS AND PLACES

Maud Van Buren, pioneer Librarian, nationally known anthologist, president of the Minnesota Library Association in 1906, former Minnesota librarian and friend of libraries, died at her home in Owatonna recently. She served as librarian at the Owatonna Public Library from 1902-1906, and from 1920-1936, and as head of the Mankato Public Library from 1906-1911. Miss Van Buren was honored by Hamline University as Minnesota's outstanding woman in 1954. Her compilation *Quotations for Special Occasions* has held its place among library aids for many years.

Patrons of public libraries in various cities are regretting resignations of librarians who have given cheerful, efficient service to their communities, and are at the same time welcoming their successors.

Among these is Little Falls, where Barbara Lentz had been librarian of the Public Library for almost thirty years preceding her resignation in October. Mrs. William Peterson, a former Board member, has accepted the position.

Minnesota welcomes back a former Minnesotan, H. Alberta Seiz, head librarian of the Fargo, North Dakota, Public Library, who will return to Winona on February 1st to become head librarian of the public library where she had earlier been cataloguer. Miss Seiz, a graduate of the library school of the University of Minnesota, began her career in the Carnegie-Lawther Public Library at Red Wing. She was librarian of the Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Public Library, before going to Fargo in 1957.

Library Activities

The Library School of the University of Minnesota, in cooperation with the Minnesota Library Association and the Minnesota Library Division, announces an Institute on Regional and Multi-County Library Service, to be held at the University Friday and Saturday, April 10-April 11, 1959.

The Institute will consider the legal, organizing and administrative problems of regional and multi-county libraries. The present status of such library systems in the United States will be presented. Tentative plans include discussion groups on personnel; finance and legal matters; bookmobile, branch and station, service points and program; publicity and public relations; functions of regional headquarters and selection of materials. A general report session of these discussion groups will be included in the program.

For further information address Regional and Multi-County Library Service Institute, Library School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.